

From: Jann Williams [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: MEETING CANCELED: Board of Neighborhood Commissioners Meeting
Date: February 26, 2018 at 2:31 PM
To: Andrew Thomas andrew@thewestwoodvillage.com



Thank you for your email. I will read the Mission statement for Westwood Forward but again I am wondering why the Village is supposed to provide entertainment options, especially after UCLA built a student union building which has a book store and all kinds of food options and a roof top area. That building took business away from the Village when it was built.

My best,

Jann

From: Andrew Thomas
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 9:28 AM
To: Jann Williams
Subject: Re: MEETING CANCELED: Board of Neighborhood Commissioners Meeting

Hey Jann,

I totally agree about all of the in-fighting and rude behavior. In addition to preventing any progress, these behaviors discourage "new blood" from becoming engaged. Sometimes when I invite people to attend WVIA meetings, they ask me if the "usual crowd" will be there. When I say yes, they say they don't want to come to the meeting. It's frustrating.

You should read the Westwood Forward message on their website. My summary of their effort is that it was born from frustration about housing and also lack of entertainment options in the Village. I believe they have an understanding about the Specific Plan, but I think they are looking at WWNC actions instead of pushing back against that particular document. There have been a lot of votes against happy hours, live entertainment, dancing, etc. Another trigger was that apparently the WWNC determined to extend their own terms and push back their next election.

Students are definitely the driving force, but we've seen a lot of business and property owner support join them. There are also homeowners that are tired of "business as usual" that also support them.

If nothing else, this has started an important conversation in our community. I think it's a good thing and long overdue.

Our Board has a policy of not taking positions on individual business or development. The UCLA residential hall is not only an individual development, but it's outside of our boundaries too. This is why we haven't heard it. Personally, I think our policy is a mistake. I believe our community is looking to us to be rational and reasonable custodians. It bothers me that we are on the sidelines, but this isn't going to change overnight.

Let's keep talking! I'm glad you're engaged.

Andrew

Andrew Thomas
Executive Director

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On Feb 25, 2018, at 10:22 PM, Jann Williams <[REDACTED]> wrote:

I will go back and read the statements on the Westwood Forward site. Did a particular event trigger all this? Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 24, 2018, at 2:13 PM, Andrew Thomas <andrew@thewestwoodvillage.com> wrote:

Hi Jann,

My Board is still sorting through this item, and so am I.

Our Executive Committee discussed this issue last week. The recommendation they made is to essentially ask the different players to try to come together one last time before our Board meets in March. If the groups can't find some middle ground, then our Board will make a determination to either support or oppose (although it's possible they won't do anything too).

The one point of agreement among my Committee members is that the current way of doing things in Westwood is not sustainable. The Westwood Forward movement was born from that frustration. I don't think status quo is going to work going forward so I hope the current council seriously considers actions that will lead to change.

Have you been following this item closely? It's been pretty interesting.

I hope all is well! Let's try to get together soon.

Andrew

On Feb 24, 2018, at 6:23 AM, Jann Williams <[REDACTED]> wrote: